



Applications are due June 30, 2012  
[www.gigabit.illinois.gov](http://www.gigabit.illinois.gov)

### Proposed Services Rates Model

ICN has announced the proposed services and rates as a result of the fiber network. ICN is also recommending a new methodology for allocating the state funding provided to off-set bandwidth costs for schools, libraries, higher education, and museums.

We have attempted to explain the proposed rates and funding allocation model and RTC staff are prepared to provide further clarification, should you have additional questions.

An explanation of the new methodology is posted on the ICN website at:

[www.illinois.net/services](http://www.illinois.net/services)

## ICN Constituents Anxiously Await Broadband Delivery

As we travel the state lighting up Illinois, we have spent time talking with many of our constituents who anxiously await broadband service and the business and educational opportunities that will soon become available. As you read this monthly update, Litchfield is enjoying their first days of new fiber service!



Litchfield High School

### Phil Lacey, Director of Instructional Technology, Niles Township H.S. District 219

represents the established and sophisticated educational users in our geography. Where technology has been fully integrated into the classroom and administrative offices, Phil and Niles Township look forward to the additional bandwidth that the ICN will bring to support their Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) program and many other on-line applications. Phil believes that student-to-student and faculty-to-faculty collaboration is a key component of learning and the district is working to provide “anywhere anytime professional development for faculty.” Phil looks forward to the new ways technology can expand the independence of the students. The technology “removes barriers through greater access to knowledge and removes limits to student learning.” Students across the state will now have “more direct access to experts in the field...and can travel millions of miles without leaving their seat.”

**Brad Greenspan, Science Teacher, Niles North High School,** “We don’t want to only teach kids what we know, we want to teach them how to discover the unknown stuff we don’t know yet. To do that, you must hook them up with the folks who are doing it.” Technology allows us “to bring students to the science world and bring the science world to the students...merging the kid world with what’s happening in the outside world. It’s that next level of that circle getting bigger and bigger.”

**Mark Latham, City Manager, City of Highland** understands the importance of having a broadband infrastructure for sustaining the future economic growth and quality of life in their community. Lacking sufficient Internet service in the area, the City decided to build their own fiber optic network including connectivity to the home.



City Hall - Highland Illinois

The new infrastructure will offer speeds of up to 100Mbps to the home and allow the municipal offices and local businesses to connect to a high speed network with access to two major Internet hubs in St. Louis and Chicago. Fiber has already been delivered to the site where their new hospital will be built and which will be one of the most high tech hospitals in Illinois. Fiber will enable physicians “to send x-rays to Chicago or anyplace in the world.” *Continued on page 2*

# Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central

## What Are All The Little Flags Along Route 128 All About?



### IBOP-EC Bringing Faster Internet At Lower Cost To ACUSD#10

*Continued from page 1*

With a focus on economic development, the city plans to attract new businesses and retain current ones. “We have had a lot of entrepreneurs and innovators and we want to keep that tradition going.” We have a new company coming into town that has been doing business overseas and wants to do business locally and needs the communication infrastructure. Illinois is vulnerable to having industry move away, jobs moving out of the community. Now that we have this kind of communication infrastructure it will be extremely beneficial. But also the current businesses having this type of infrastructure will help keep them here.” Highland is pursuing other initiatives which include: working with local universities offering college classes via video to high school students and a public access TV channel providing educational and community programming. The City hopes to implement a smart grid and smart metering which is expected to save about half a million dollars per year. “The more we all get on the same system, the more we will all benefit. It used to be location, location, location. Now it is location but communication and communication.”

**Altamont Unit 10 Schools** have seen the vision for years, but haven’t been able to afford the connectivity as they had limited options for bigger broadband. Charlie Niehaus, Technology Director, understands how important the ICN will be to realizing his goal of delivering learning tools to the classroom. Having the needed bandwidth will be new to Altamont. ICN fiber will deliver 50 times the bandwidth that they could access just a couple of years ago. Charlie sees the opportunity and is positioning his students to be competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century world economy.

“Lower bandwidth was more acceptable when its use was not an instrumental part of instruction. But as time went by, teachers started to rely more on the Internet and higher bandwidth levels were necessary. With higher bandwidth, our teachers are starting to discover on-line resources, e-Congress, Moodle, streaming video and audio, kids using cloud computing. Being in a rural area it was difficult for our teachers to do what they wanted to do because of the expense of broadband. The Internet connection became a bottleneck for teachers. The ICN broadband project will allow us to go from the 20<sup>th</sup> century educational system to a 21<sup>st</sup> century educational system.”

### Feet of Conduit Installed

